

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

I know that showing both of the Kerry pieces ("Stolen Hours" and "Going Up river") will let the voter see how both camps feel. What is Sinclair so frightened of? If Sinclair wants Bush to win, he has to vote. Using the public airwaves to persuade me that Kerry is an enemy, who did not do his tour of duty, is coloring my view to dislike him. Showing both films presents Kerry in a fair fight. I would like to make up my own mind about this guy and what I don't like is some station trying to buy my vote, trying to control me. In fact, I am distinctly repulsed by having to write this sort of letter.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.